

Historic Grand CheonBo Festival on 9th anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind

Young Ho Yoon
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Cheongshim World Peace Center



The November 10 Grand CheonBo Festival, held in commemoration of the ninth anniversary of the Holy Ascension of Sun Myung Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth and Humankind, took place at the Cheongshim World Peace Center. Dr. Yoon, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, came to the stage as the master of ceremonies and welcomed everyone to the festival at which faithful members would be inducted as CheonBo couples, treasures of heaven. Each couple had witnessed to and blessed at least 430 couples. Dr. Yoon explained that the CheonBo Festival was taking place on the fiftieth day since we had begun commemorating the ninth anniversary of True Father's ascension.

He explained, "Through their love and grace, true Parents liberated our Heavenly Parent, brought salvation to humanity and firmly established the cosmic nation of peace and unity, which is the eternal world of peace, thereby realizing Heavenly Parent's ideal.

"As we all witnessed, after the shock of True Father's Holy Ascension, True Mother gathered the Unification Movement, which had been experiencing confusion and despair, and in front of True Father's body, she promised, 'I will realize the firm settlement of Cheon Il Guk during my lifetime.' With firm determination she declared, 'We will advance without ceasing.'" Members then rose from their seats to sing the Cheon Il Guk Anthem, "The budding rose of love will bloom with new tidings of hope. May the world live in new freedom, earth and heaven rejoice!.."



An appeal for peace

The Peace Invocation Ceremony is the Interfaith Water Ceremony and the Declaration to Heaven together. The Interfaith Water Ceremony was carried out in four parts, with seven religious leaders each from the heavenly United States, heavenly Japan, heavenly Africa and finally heavenly Korea. Altogether, these twenty-eight leaders represented ACLC, Pentecostals, Roman Catholics, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Judaism, Confucianism, Daejonggyo (an ancient Korean religion), Daehan Cheon-rikyo (a new religion in Korea founded in 1838) and Heavenly Parents' Holy Community.

One religious leader from each of the regions then joined Rev. Ki-seong Lee, chair of the Cheoneuiwon-Korea and president of the Cheonshimwon, in conducting the Holy Water Ceremony. After they combined the waters, symbolizing the unity and oneness of people of all faiths, Rev. Lee read the Declaration to Heaven, thereby concluding the Peace Invocation Ceremony.

Special Hyojeong Performances

The special performances began with a sand-art presentation, with various depictions of True Parents and other providential references, ending with the Cheon Il Guk symbol surrounded by stars. The prelude to the entertainment featured a choir of local Unificationists and graceful dancers. In the opening scene, several dancers dressed mostly in white depict flowers, along with a lone dancer in yellow, who seems to represent the Korean people.

The stage in the World Peace Center is remarkably sophisticated. Depicted as the backdrop is the night sky and then mountains and a waterfall. This scene gives way to a meteor shower. More dancers in white come on stage as the background scene continues to display views of the beauty of nature. The dancers seem content as they all exit the stage.

They are replaced by numerous dancers in dark clothing that dance in an agitated way as smoky mist rises around them; there is a clear sense of turmoil. Behind them is depicted the aftermath of what might have been a Korean War battle, which left buildings ruined and attracted vultures. Eerily, letters formed of fire

spell out HATE. What follows that at the back of the stage is an image of people trapped behind barbed wire. Billowing smoke replaces that image as the dancers in dark clothing depart the stage.



Tanshimga

This phase of the performance had the theme, "Hardship." Two black-and-white photographs of True Parents appear, arms outstretched, offering the Blessing Prayer early in their ministry when they were investing all their effort to build a foundation for future victories.

The choir, with the orchestra and dancers adding heart and emphasis -- began singing the hauntingly plaintive "Tanshimga," [My heart is Burning,] which begins "Although my body perishes and yet one thousand times dies, my bones becoming ashes, even my soul vanishes -- still all my love and all my heart, unchanging, remain with you. My everlasting loyalty, unchanging remains with you."

As they sing, we see images of True Father in a prison uniform, and ones of True Mother weeping and drying her eyes with a handkerchief on the day True Father began his incarceration in Danbury prison. These are followed by more photos of Father in prison and one of True Mother kissing True Father on the forehead as he lay in his casket. We then see the photograph of Heung Jin Moon (November 23, 1966–January 2, 1984) that was used at his funeral after he ascended because of a car accident.



Blessing of Glory

The dancers return to the stage as the scenes behind them show breathtaking images of nature's beauty. The dancers are smiling as the background becomes beautifully abstract. More dancers join them, and all seem to express hope for the future in a world in which True Parents' salvific work is progressing.

The second theme of the performance was "Victory," and the song used to express it was "Blessing of Glory," the first verse of which is "Now the light of glory arises like the sun that shines on high; Now awaken into freedom, O revive, you spirits O revive! Wake the mountains and the valleys; bring alive the springs of the earth. Light the world forever with the light of your rebirth."

The segment opens with an aerial shot of Seoul's Olympic Stadium, during a Blessing Ceremony including thousands of couples and segues to a different Blessing Ceremony at the same huge venue. Then back in the World Peace Center, we see Conductor David Eaton leading the Hyo Jeong Youth

Orchestra. Behind them are projected views of True Parents posing with happy members in various parts of the world.

Song of a Pioneer

The next portion of the event had the theme "Gratitude." The song that coincided with the theme was not a holy song but a Korean folk song, "Song of a Pioneer," the lyrics of which were adapted to reflect FFWPU history. "I was born and joined the Unification Movement in this land. Almost sixty years of flowers blooming and snow falling... What have I achieved? What do I wish for? To be buried in Cheon Il Guk after I die would be an honor."

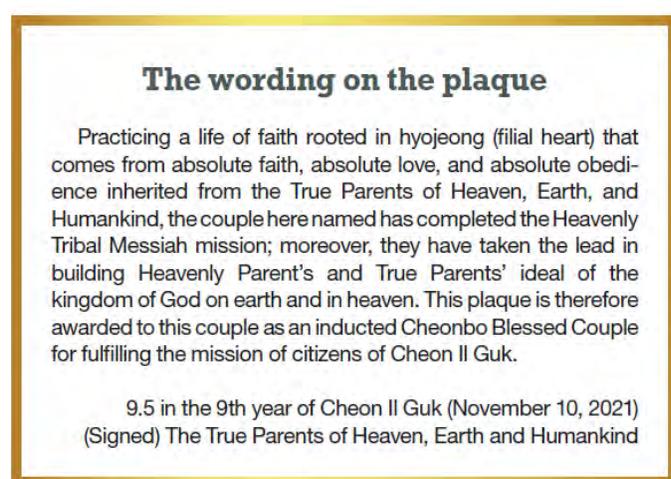
The illustrations were of early members, at meetings, at church services, a few times with Father, but mostly on their own carrying out their mission to awaken the Korean nation to recognize the advent of the Messiah. Fittingly, an aged professional singer and four elder members, Jeong-ro Yun, Man-ung Cho, Yang Huh and Hwa-beom Lee sang together.



Welcoming True Mother

The final song is one that True Mother is fond of and sometimes sings at church gatherings. The theme of this portion of the event was "Glory." Amidst the rousing song, True Mother appeared on stage accompanied by her daughters in law Yeon Ah Moon and Hoon Sook Moon. Dr. Yoon explained, "True Mother has come to personally bestow the grace and blessing of becoming CheonBo families."

After she was seated and everyone had bowed, Dr. Yoon and Wonju Jeong McDevitt, chief of True Parents' Secretariat, presented the CheonBo Holy Register -- the list of the 5,404 CheonBo couples from seven regional groups across the world -- to True Mother. From Korea were 1,743 couples, from Japan, 2,226 couples, from the United States, 310 couples, from Africa, 298 couples, from Europe, 336 couples, from Latin America, 269 couples and from Asia Pacific 222 couples.



Bestowing CheonBo Holy Items

On behalf of True Parents, Yeon Ah Moon and Hoon Sook Moon then began bestowing on CheonBo couples the holy items -- a plaque recognizing their registration as CheonBo couples and a long silk shawl, which they are to wear around their neck over their distinctive CheonBo "holy robe." The shawl symbolizes their qualification as CheonBo families who have fulfilled Heavenly Parent's and True Parents' will.

Yeon Ah Moon and Hoon Sook Moon presented the holy items to a group of Korean CheonBo couples and then pastors throughout Korea were instructed to present the holy items to their local CheonBo couples. Via the Internet, True Mother and all others in the World Peace Center watched as the holy items were bestowed on a representative group of CheonBo couples in Japan by their regional president, Sang-il Bang at the same time as a group representing Japan receive the holy items from the True Family members in Korea.

After the holy items had been distributed to the group of recipients in Japan and to the group representing Japan in the World Peace Center the two groups, wearing their shawls and holding their plaques, posed with True Mother for a joint group photograph. This pattern continued for the other nations with CheonBo couples.

After all the CheonBo holy items had been distributed representatives of the seven regional groups presented gifts to True Mother. Following this True Mother spoke.



Recognizing incredible investment

After the holy items had been distributed to all the regional groups in the World Peace Center and in the nations, Dr. Dr. Yoon also advised, "For those CheonBo couples who can only participate in the ceremony from their homes because of the COVID pandemic, I would like to ask you to raise your CheonBo plaques toward True Parents' photograph as if you are offering it, bow, and then face each other to place the CheonBo shawl over each other.

"I would like to give thanks once again to the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind for giving us, through this precious CheonBo Ceremony, the "CheonBo plaque" and the "CheonBo shawl," which symbolize, respectively, "Heavenly Parent's treasure" and the "CheonBo family."

Expressions of gratitude

Imboni Dr. Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe, founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home, and his wife Mapula Radebe received CheonBo status.

"Beloved True Mother, the mother of peace, the only begotten daughter, beloved CheonBo families around the world, beloved Yoon Young-ho, my brother:

First, I would like to salute Father Moon's ascension to Heaven. We do not mourn his passing but celebrate his ascension to heaven. Thanks be to the Creator and our Heavenly Parent, because today is a special day. Today, our family is recognized as a CheonBo family, which means a "treasure of heaven."

"I am grateful to True Mother, the only begotten daughter, for giving us this special blessing and grace. I'm also grateful for my brother Dr. Yoon Young-ho. Together we are working to realize the heavenly continent of Africa and together we will work to realize the heavenly, united world. "Today's CheonBo Festival is special. More than 5,500 families worldwide have been recognized as treasures of heaven. We are honored and privileged that True Mother especially recognizes my couple. Last year, True Mother asked, "How long has Heavenly Parent waited for this day?" Yes, we have also waited for this day.

"This year, in May, True Mother also spoke about a song that she sang at the age of fifteen about a place she had dreamed about. The song was about yearning for one's hometown. No place on earth do I love more sincerely than the state where I was born. We know that the Korea is still divided, but True Mother is leading an incredible providence to realize peaceful reunification. Also, Africa will be True Mother's hometown. We will work hard with my brother, Dr. Yoon, to realize a heavenly united world. We will

multiply CheonBo families worldwide. Together we will realize one cosmic family of humanity under the Heavenly Parent. Thank you once again, True Mother. Kamsahamnida. Saranghamnida."

Archbishop Johannes Ndanga, founder of the Apostolic Christian Churches of Zimbabwe, and his wife, Judith Ndanga, received CheonBo status.

Beloved True Mother, the mother of peace, mother of unification, only begotten daughter; beloved fellow CheonBo families who were registered today as treasures of heaven:

First of all, I would like to thank True Mother for giving our family the grace of being able to registered as CheonBo, becoming treasures of heaven. The "treasure of heaven" reference is the greatest blessing. For me and for my wife, this blessing is particularly meaningful, because in 2020, I fell sick. At that time, True Mother and Dr. Young-ho Yoon heard about my condition and they immediately helped me. They saved my life. As a result, today I could receive this tremendous grace of our being a CheonBo family. I pledge that our family will do its best to expand the CheonBo blessing to all members throughout Africa. Working together as one with Dr. Yoon, we will realize a heavenly, unified world. I would like to congratulate Dr. Radebe, my brother for leading the way for us together. Already we are proclaiming the gospel of True Parents worldwide. Aju!

Dr. Yoon expressed appreciation for the speeches of the two African leaders, especially for their use of Korean terms. He went on to say, "In January 2018, True Mother proclaimed 'Shining Africa,' and with Prophet Radebe, we had 200,000 people receive the blessing; it was broadcast on television as well, so that all of Africa could participate. Rain poured, but it was successful.

We had heard that Archbishop Ndanga was in critical condition. True Mother instructed me to go to Zimbabwe. We transferred him to the capital city, where he could be treated. Rev. Ndanga regained his health and he is testifying about True Parents in his country. We are seeing the work of God happening. I believe that all that was due to Mother's love and blessing. We just heard his message of gratitude and I believe it expresses what we are feeling in our hearts, too."